

FACT SHEET



Chemplex Clinton, Iowa

July 1999

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to monitor the Chemplex site. EPA recently completed its five-year review of the site as required by the Superfund law. The five-year review is done to make sure the site remains safe. Based on the review, the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

The site is approximately five miles west of Clinton, Iowa. EPA managed the site in two cleanup phases. The first phase addresses contaminated groundwater. The second phase addresses contaminated soils and wastes at the facility.

Site Background

The Chemplex site is in Clinton County within five miles of Clinton, Iowa. The site includes a landfill, a waste water treatment plant, and a facility which manufactures high and low density polyethylene. The Chemplex polyethylene manufacturing facility was constructed in 1967 and has been in operation since then. Equistar Chemicals, LP, is the current operator of the facility.

Previous waste disposal practices at the site

caused soil and groundwater contamination. The contaminants of concern are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). VOCs and PAHs were found in the groundwater and soils. The VOCs include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, tetrachloroethylene and trichloroethylene. PAHs include anthracene, flourene, naphthalene, phenanthrene and pyrene.

The site was identified as a potentially uncontrolled hazardous waste site and was proposed for EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1984. The site was later deleted from the proposed NPL under the Resource Conservation, Recovery Act (RCRA) deferral policy in 1990.

Site Activities

The first phase of cleanup that addresses contaminated groundwater, is a groundwater extraction and treatment system which includes more than 50 groundwater extraction wells that pump groundwater out of the ground and a treatment plant that treats the extracted groundwater. The major focus of the five-year review is the groundwater extraction and treatment system which has removed more than 14,000 pounds of VOCs since startup.

Groundwater monitoring will be conducted to ensure that the contaminated plumes will not impact any drinking water supplies. Any discharges from the treatment plant, such as air emissions, will also be monitored to ensure protection human health and the environment are protected.

Residential water supply wells near the site continue to be sampled and monitored. To date, no contamination above health-based levels has been found.

The second phase of cleanup, which addresses contaminated soils and wastes, includes installation of vegetative covers, caps and a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system. The SVE system is a treatment process that uses vacuum wells to remove hazardous gases from the soil. The SVE consists of more than 50 extraction wells, and has removed approximately 35,600 pounds of VOCs.

EPA will continue to review all monitoring reports, and collect and analyze independent groundwater samples to ensure human health and the environment are protected.

Five Year Reviews

EPA considered a significant amount of information before concluding that the site remains safe. The agency reviewed quarterly gauging reports, annual sampling results, operation and maintenance records from the extraction and treatment system, and correspondence with those involved with the site remedy. Based on the evaluation of the information, EPA believes that the remedial action for the Chemplex site is protective of human health and the environment.

Since contaminants remain at the site above health-based levels and the site's use is

restricted due to the contaminants, EPA will conduct another five-year review in 2004. The review will be completed in the Spring of 2004.

Additional Information

EPA encourages community members to review the Five-Year Review report for the Chemplex site at the following information repositories, during normal business hours:

Clinton Public Library
306 8th Avenue South
Clinton, Iowa

Camanche Public Library
102 12th Avenue
Camanche, Iowa

If you have additional questions about this fact sheet, or the site please contact:

Hattie Thomas
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA, Region 7
Office of External Programs
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
1-913-551-7003
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
Fax: 913-551-7066
E-mail:thomas.hattie@epa.gov

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